

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method of producing ceramics base plates, which comprises:

forming a continuous flaw on at least one surface of a ceramics sintered base plate from end to end using a flawing tool; and

dividing the ceramics sintered base plate along the flaw by applying an external force,
wherein a blade edge portion of the flawing tool is made of a cemented carbide or diamond.
2. (Cancelled)
3. (Currently amended) A method of producing ceramics base plates as claimed in claim 2 1, wherein the blade edge portion of the flawing tool is made of diamond.
4. (Previously Presented) A method of producing ceramics base plates as claimed in claim 1, comprising forming the continuous flaw to a depth of from 1/100 to 1/10 of the thickness of the ceramics sintered base plate.
5. (Previously Presented) A method of producing ceramics base plates as claimed in claim 1, wherein Vickers hardness of the ceramics sintered base plate is 1,500 Hv or lower.
6. (Previously Presented) A method of producing ceramics base plates as claimed in claim 1, wherein the ceramics sintered base plate is an aluminum nitride sintered base plate.

7. (Previously Presented) A method of producing ceramics base plates as claimed in claim 1, wherein a cooling medium is not used at forming the flaw on the surface of the ceramics sintered base plate and at dividing the ceramics sintered base plate.

8. (Withdrawn) A ceramics base plate obtained by dividing a ceramics sintered base plate, wherein the base plate has a flaw trace of from $1/100$ to $1/10$ of the thickness of the ceramics base plate along an edge between a surface of the ceramics base plate and the divided surface.